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PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Raman Naduhatty Selai et al. : Art Unit: 1764
Serial No.: 09/871,077 : Examiner: Tam M. Nguyen
Filed: May 31, 2001 :

FOR: EXTRACTION OF AROMATICS FROM HYDROCARBON OIL USING
FURFURAL-CO-SOLVENT EXTRACTION PROCESS

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED AUGUST 13, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

S I R :

In response to the Office Action dated August 13, 2002, please amend
the above application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please ~~replace~~ claims 1 and 8-12 with the following amended claims:

- 1 1. (Amended) An improved furfural extraction process for the
2 extraction of aromatic material from a hydrocarbon oil containing aromatic material,
3 said process comprising contacting, in a unit, the hydrocarbon oil with a solvent
4 comprising of furfural and a co-solvent selected from one or more aliphatic amides
5 having less than 5 carbon atoms, to obtain increased raffinate yield by facilitating phase
6 separation, while maintaining the same product quality as measured by raffinate
7 refractive index.